failing continuously for the last seven years through want of water and causing loss both to Government and the people alike. To remove the grievance, he requested that the proposed Pattanamkal which was intended to supply water to those parts should be constructed without delay.

A large area of garden lands under the Kodayar channels had been converted into wet lands, and an equally extensive area was awaiting such conversion. But, as the water supplied by the channels was not sufficient for the purposes of cultivation, the crops often suffered by *karivu*. That could be avoided by increasing the capacity of the Pechipara Reservoir by raising the height of the dam by 5 feet and by widening the channels. The Member also pleaded for the speedy construction of the channels originally contemplated for distributing the water from the Left Bank Channel.

He then referred to certain water-logged fields within the area commanded by the project and observed that, in spite of the protests of their owners, the lands were charged with water cess. He requested that (1) the cess on those lands should not be collected till the water-logging was removed, or (2) immediate action should be taken to remove the water-logging, or (3) remission of assessment should be allowed for *azhukichetham* till the water-logging was removed. Some roads had also to be opened to provide the ryots with facilities to take manure, cattle, &c., to the paddy fields. Greater facilities should be afforded for the removal of green manure from the forests. It was also necessary that cattle breeding should be specially encouraged by providing grazing lands wherever possible.

A Committee on the lines suggested by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, Member, Kalkulam taluk, should be formed to enquire into the measures to be adopted to promote agriculture in the State and to remove all obstacles in its way.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

59. Grievances of the ryots of the Vilavankod taluk and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankod taluk) represented that, though the Kuzhithura river was running through the taluk, there was no means of utilising its water for irrigation purposes. There were some irrigation tanks in the taluk. But, when some years ago the Right Bank Channel of the Kodayar Project was proposed to be cut, the annual allotment for the maintenance of the tanks was stopped. Since that time, crops were continuously failing for want of timely supply of water. He understood that there was no likelihood of the Right Bank Channel being taken up for construction, as the water in the Pechipara Reservoir was not sufficient for irrigating even the area commanded by the Left Bank Channel. He, therefore, requested that the Mannanpara dam near Kakachal about 6 miles down the Pechipara Reservoir might be properly re-constructed and a channel cut to the Vilavankod taluk to take off water to the paddy lands thirsting for water. He estimated the cost at 10 lakhs of rupees. If that was not possible, the old irrigation tanks should be repaired and an annual allotment provided for their maintenance.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

60. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. A. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) gave a lengthy description of the economic poverty of the people and traced it to the failure of crops due to want of water, the gradual silting up of some of the irrigation tanks and their conversion into garden lands—either registered as holdings or encroachments—and the consequent inability of storing water for purposes of cultivation. The following were mentioned as the agricultural needs of the taluk:—

(1) The abandonment of the Right Bank Channel under the Kodayar Irrigation Scheme was a source of grievance to them.

(2) In the first group of *pakuthies* represented by the Member, there was one important *chira* and 805 tanks. On inspection it would be found that not only

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was there not one tank useful for agricultural purposes, but that many had become garden lands. Their improvement required immediate attention.

(3) If the Vandiyur *chira* in the Member's group could be improved and the encroachments thereon removed, it would be useful for 4,000 or 5,000 *paras* of paddy land. It should be treated as a major work and done at the cost of Government.

(4) One or two tanks in each *kara* should be taken up every year for repair. The people would be glad to contribute a share, provided it was collected in 4 or 5 years with the land revenue.

(5) All encroachments on irrigation tanks should be removed and no tank *poramboke* should, under any circumstances, be registered.

(6) No contract for repair of tanks in the taluk should be given to foreigners. The work should always be entrusted to the leading men of the respective *karas*.

(7) Till the ryots got water, a certain amount should be provided in the budget every year for repair of tanks in the taluk. The taluk used to get an annual allotment for the purpose in the pre-Kodayar Irrigation days.

(8) If Government would spend the required money and make the tanks, useful, the people would have no objection to pay a small additional assessment of $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ *chuckram* on every *para* of land thus protected.

(9) To make a thorough inquiry into the condition of the various tanks, to ascertain the necessity for people's contribution and to fix the amount wherever necessary, to attend to the immediate repair or improvement of such tanks, to generally look into the needs of the ryots and report to Government, a Committee should be appointed consisting of the Dewan Peishkar or his Assistant as President and the local Tahsildar and a P. W. D. Officer and three leading ryots as members.

Mr. K. Kali Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) submitted that, under Huzur Order No. 177, dated 21st Chingom 1066, a sum of Rs. 5,000 had been sanctioned as an annual allotment for the repair and improvement of irrigation tanks in the taluk. Work was also conducted for one or two years. But subsequently nothing was done. As a result of frequent representations at the sessions of the Assembly, a sum of Rs. 300 had been provided in the budget for 1094 for the preparation of a sketch and estimates. The distress in regard to water was so keen that at least a few important tanks should be taken up in the current year and the remaining tanks should be put in order in the course of three years. The Member then complained that several village traces like those from Nemom to Ooruttampalam, from Ooruttampalam to Malayinkil, from Peyyattu in the Vilappil *pakuthi* to Vellanad, from Karumkulam to Arumanur and Thiruvarathur were in a neglected condition and were useless for traffic, as some culverts and bridges were required in some of them to render them fit for traffic. The traces had no boundary marks also on account of which the owners of adjoining compounds could not fence them. He, therefore, requested that the annual allotment for their repair should be ordered to be fully utilized. The Member, in conclusion, represented that Karuppattichira in the Kottukal *pakuthi* was breached years ago rendering 400 and odd *paras* of paddy lands into a sandy waste. The matter was brought to the notice of Government during the past 5 or 6 years, yet nothing had been done. The Member earnestly requested that the locality might be inspected by the Dewan.

Dewan's reply.—The question of appointing a Committee will be considered. I shall try to inspect the Karupattichira personally.

61. A few agricultural and other needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) represented that the influx of salt water from the Veli *kayal* was causing considerable damage to cultivation in about 5,000 *paras* of paddy land in the Anayara *ela* in Kadagampalli *pakuthi*, and requested that a bund should be constructed at Erottu Palakadavu to keep out the salt water. A gravelled village road from Champakadamukku near the Petta Police Station to the Kadagampalli Proverthi

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